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THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS

Fall 2011

On the Side

» "That prayer exists at all is a gift of grace, a generous invitation to participate in the future of the cosmos."

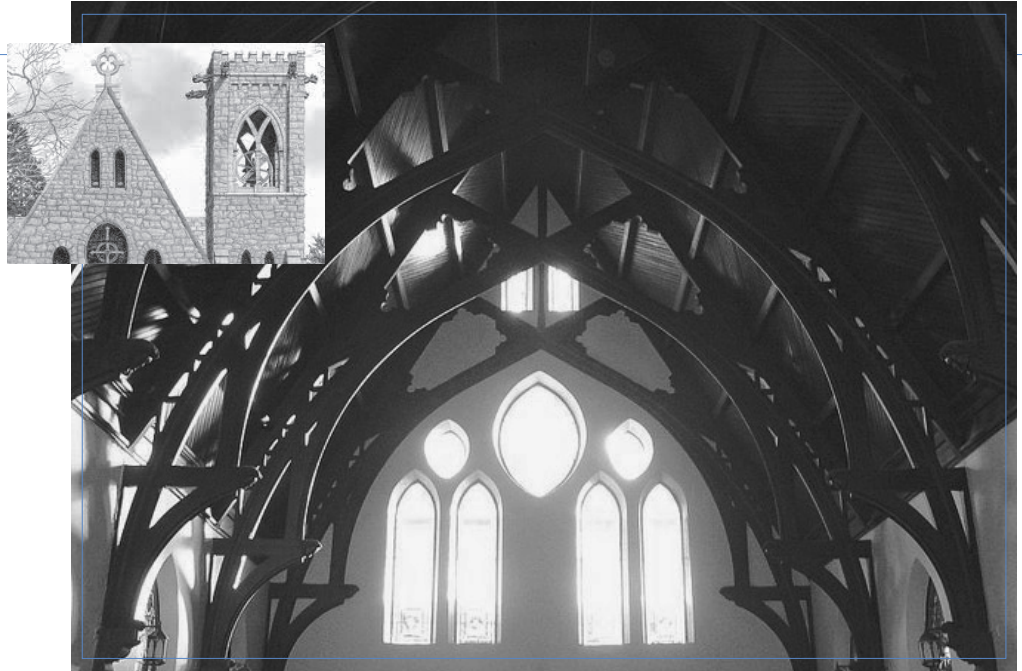
— PHILIP YANCEY

» "To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."

— KARL BARTH

» "True, whole prayer is nothing but love."

— AUGUSTINE



Morning Prayer

"Trust me when I say I hate getting up in the morning, but the thought of spending time in the chapel in prayer gets me out of bed. I love the glorious stillness of praying before the day gets busy because it helps me consciously decide to follow Jesus in my thoughts and actions—in a way that rolling out of bed and rushing to class doesn't." Jessica Garber, UVa '12.



It's eight fifteen in the morning and the Grounds are only beginning to stir. Inside the UVa Chapel, students, faculty and friends pray together: "O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you as the day rises to meet the sun." Sitting on the floor up by the altar, we pray through song and Scripture, and then men and women move into two groups for a time of personal prayer.

By eight forty-five, as the last words of the Lord's Prayer echo into the rafters, we step outside, refreshed and ready. We have experienced this truth: "The first moments of the new day are not the time for our own plans and worries, not even for our zeal to accomplish our own work, but for God's liberating grace, God's sanctifying presence. Before the heart unlocks itself for the world, God wants to open it for Himself." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

Join us in the UVa Chapel at 8:15 any Monday, Tuesday or Thursday morning. Read along with us online: <http://commonprayer.net/>

Quotable

"For prayer exists, no question about that. It is the peculiarly human response to the fact of this endless mystery of bliss and brutality, impersonal might and lyric intimacy that composes our experience of life."

— PATRICIA HAMPL

WHO WE ARE

THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS, INC.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

A WEEK AT A GLANCE:

» Monday, 8:15am
Morning prayer in the UVa Chapel

» Tuesday, 8:15am
Morning prayer in the UVa Chapel

» Wednesday, 9am
Breakfast Bible Study

» Thursday, 8:15am
Morning prayer in the UVa Chapel

» Friday, 1pm
Vintage + Lunch

...
AT THE BONHOEFFER HOUSE
and BEYOND

» December 7, Noon
Reading Day Lunch

» December 3, 7:30pm
Christmas House Concert with Alex Mejias

» March 20, 7:30pm
Charles Marsh speaking on Bonhoeffer at
the Christian Study Center

» March 27, 6pm
Capps Lecture in Christian Theology,
Lauren Winner

...
For more information:
www.theologicalhorizons.org/events.htm

» PRO FILES



Dr. Anjeanette Roberts

Prayer Epiphanies

In my college days I was once asked, "What activities require your WHOLE being; mind, body and spirit?" I offered the only answer that came to mind, "Praying." It requires all of me to draw near to God. And that's a good thing! The significance of prayer has only grown for me from that early epiphany.

Fast forward: About six years ago I was distraught with how thoroughly contemptuous and cynical I had become. No matter how hard I or others prayed, my contemptuous spirit was something I just couldn't shake. Then I was challenged to keep a thanksgiving journal, where each night I would journal at least five things for which I was thankful to God. One day, about three months of journaling, I realized that my contemptuous spirit was no longer a constant companion. She had taken a permanent leave of absence! Prayers of thanksgiving - remarkable and transforming. No wonder we are encouraged to "give thanks" in all circumstances and "with thanksgiving" to make our requests known to God. (1 Thess 5:18 and Phil 4:6)

Fast forward: Recently, I had another prayer related epiphany: Prayer is part of our spiritual armor! (Eph 6:18) This has been clearly affirmed as I've seen life's toughest challenges beset very dear friends. I don't know how, but when all we have to offer from our own resources falls short, prayer seems to change circumstances and hearts. Prayer has real physical and spiritual effects. When we seek God, when we acknowledge his power and goodness and our dependence, when we invite him into our situations and petition on behalf of others, incredible things happen! We need to be in prayer wherever we go, whatever we face. It's part of our Christian vocation:

"The way of Christian witness is neither the way of quietist withdrawal nor the way of militant zeal; it is the way of being in Christ in the Spirit at the place where the world is in pain so that the healing love of God may be brought to bear at that point."

— N.T. Wright

Dr. Anjeanette Roberts is Asst. Professor of Graduate Education of Microbiology at UVa, studying part time for an MDiv. AJ enjoys whitewater rafting, rowing and Oklahoma Sooners football!



Nathan Swedberg

A Love Relationship

What have I learned about prayer in recent years? I'm bad at it, straight up. My prayer life suffers from inconsistency, my thoughts are often far away when in prayer, and I'm left desiring that zealous faith that proclaims, "Yes, God will answer this!"

I've realized that much of the dryness in my prayer life is a result of my lack of assurance of the Father's love. I pride myself in keeping His rules, but ultimately do so to avoid Jesus. Even when I try to get things to be better in my prayer life, I am trying to control the environment and I'm trying to control God; I'm certainly not delving into an intimate relationship with a God who loves me. Our prayer lives should be spontaneous joyful praise, and also brutally personal.

Let's be direct: we love this word "commitment" because we are still in control! Even when we make a commitment to prayer, we are retaining that control. Let's get ourselves out of the way; surrender is the word here. What does surrendering your prayer life mean? That's hard.

If we're not being honest with God about our shortcomings, our prayer lives go nowhere. So maybe, just maybe, that recognition of being "bad" at pray isn't an entirely bad thing; that's surrender. And maybe that's the attitude that we need when we go before our Heavenly Father—"I'm bad at this...but I adore you. Teach me."

Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Nathan Swedberg now calls Fairfield, CT, home. Nathan Swedberg (A&S UVa '10) ...is a graduate student in the UVa Batten School of Leadership and belongs to the a cappella group, the Hullabahoos.

HORIZONS NEWS

THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST THE 2011 GOODWIN PRIZES

Where are the finest Christian theology professors of tomorrow? In graduate school today! But the journey is arduous: A PhD in the humanities requires an average of seven years to complete. Almost 50% of doctoral students drop out along the way.

Through our strategic Goodwin Prizes for Excellence in Theological Writing, we identify, recognize and reward the top theology students in the world—coming alongside them as they follow God's call into the risky world of academia.

We are pleased to introduce to you the 2011 Goodwin Prize winners, who exemplify Christian scholarship at its most promising.

Timothy Hartman, (University of Virginia) \$2,000 Prize

“Lost in Translation: Postcolonial Reflections on Guilt in the Amazon”

“The Panare killed Jesus Christ.” Tim’s paper examines this jarring translation of the death of Jesus Christ by two American missionaries to Venezuela in 1975. The culture of the Panare tribe had no concept of guilt and their language had no words for guilt, shame, or sin. Hartman’s paper examines the missionaries’ reasoning behind their translation and the furor it ignited. Tim investigates alternative ways of communicating the Gospel beyond death and guilt by engaging in a dialogue with postcolonial theologians from around the world.

Tim Hartman says, “I am fascinated by what happens when culture and theology intersect. My hope, upon completing my Ph.D., will be to teach in a college or university, bringing Christian thought into dialogue with contemporary cultures, present-day problems, and its global and historical context.”

Tim Hartman is a doctoral student in Theology, Ethics, and Culture at the UVA. Prof. Mrinalini Chakravorty received a \$500 prize for directing the winning essay.



Brendan McNerny, (Fordham University) \$1,000 Prize

“The Splendor of the Kingdom: The Celebration of the Eucharist, Liturgical Art, and Christian Discipleship”

Brendan's essay offers a justification for liturgical art (such as visual art, music, architecture) and explains its necessary connection to Christian discipleship as a manifestation of the Kingdom of Heaven. As disciples we witness to this Kingdom in the world. Liturgical art, which lacks utilitarian purpose, serves as an important reminder that the Kingdom cannot be reduced to this-worldly norms of justice—and neither can Christian discipleship.

How will the Goodwin Prize change Brendan's life? McNerny, a doctoral student in systematic theology at Fordham University, New York, says, “It has already encouraged me to continue thinking about the place of art within the liturgy and the role that plays in the life of every believer, as well as the broader relationship between systematic theology and liturgy. The award serves as a foundation for further research in these areas.”



Nina-Dorothee Mützlitz, (Heidelberg University) \$500 Prize

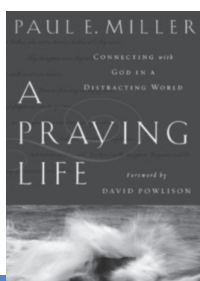
“Between Liberal Theology and Religious Socialism: The Young Karl Barth: An Analysis of the Years 1906-1914”

Karl Barth, famous theologian of the 20th century, is best known for his Church Dogmatics, completed in 1968. Nina-Dorothee looks back to his early years to trace a fascinating aspect of Barth: how he was able to challenge and question himself and his theology at significant points of history (like World War I and II) that effected cultural and scientific change. In her view, Barth's thinking always moved between the world of God given in the Bible and the lived experience of human beings in the world.

Nina-Dorothee is a doctoral student in systematic theology at Heidelberg University, Germany. She affirms Theological Horizons' “important work of encouraging and assisting young scholars,” saying, “This is important not only for young scholars like myself, but for the future of theology on the whole.”



The Goodwin Writing Prizes are endowed by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Garrett Louthan III in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Goodwin. The winning essays are available upon request: karen@theologicalhorizons.org



On the Bookshelf

The Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World
by Paul E. Miller

With Open Hands, by Henri JM Nouwen



Giving to HORIZONS

Special Gifts to Theological Horizons

Special gifts have been given in honor of Bob and Myra Marsh by Janet and Charles Dickerson and by Mary Lynn Parker

A special gift was given in honor of Saranell Hartman by Jeremy Kracht

A special gift was given in memory of Ray Butler by Irene Butler

A special gift was given in memory of Dana Goodwin Smith by Shirley and Coleman Smith

A special gift was given in memory of Dr. Buren E. Wells by Jane Chalker Wells

A special gift was given in memory of Maynard K. Wright by Patti and Dan Wright

A special gift was given in honor of Ida Bell by Amy & Dan Smith

A special gift was given in honor of Rachel and Daniel Darg by Julia & David Thompson



The Bonhoeffer House

Theological Horizons
Christians Engaged In Ideas and Action

Thanks, Horizons Advisors!



A new team of energetic student, faculty and community leaders is building our capacity for ministry. They lend their expertise and volunteer power to keep our programs sustainable, day in and day out.

We are grateful for our Horizons Advisors:

Ashley Anderson, Jasmine Braxton, Hunter Chorey, Katherine Edwards, Renee Ferguson, Lansing Lee, Molly Warrick MacFarland, Sam McClelland, Locke Ogens, Matt Puffer, AJ Roberts, Nathan Swedberg, Dorothy Tullman and Bev Wispelwey.

From the Bonhoeffer House Kitchen

Saranell Hartman's Homemade Granola

- 6 cups of rolled oats
- 1 cup coconut (dried, unsweetened)
- 1 cup of wheat germ
- 1 or 2 cups of nuts (I use one cup of almonds and one cup of pecans)
- 1 cup of seeds (I use sunflower seeds or pumpkin seeds)
- ½ cup butter, melted
- 1 cup honey
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Stir together and bake on two cookie sheets at 250 degrees for 40- 60 minutes depending on how crunchy or chewy you like it. When done scrape off cookie sheet and cool in large bowl. Stir in dried fruit like raisins, banana chips, etc.

THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS SUPPORTS CHRISTIANS IN ACADEMIA

by advancing theological scholarship

by providing a welcoming home for
engaging faith, thought, and life

BONHOEFFER HOUSE

Theological Horizons is centered just steps from the University of Virginia at the Bonhoeffer House, the home of Professor Charles Marsh, Karen Wright Marsh and their family. The Bonhoeffer House is a gathering place for students, professors, community members, and church leaders who come together for rich conversations about integrating the practices of theology into everyday life.

Stay in TOUCH

1841 University Circle
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434.244.2839
www.theologicalhorizons.org
info@theologicalhorizons.org



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